TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1990 -- Carloadings originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 24 totaled 335,150, up 2.6 percent from the comparable week of 1989 but 1.4 percent below the preceding week of 1990, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 5.1 percent in the West and 0.6 percent in the East, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1989 week, coal loadings were up 5,285 cars (4.2 percent), while loadings of metallic ores rose by 3,494 cars (28.9 percent), and grain loadings increased by 2,146 cars (7.3 percent). Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment fell by 2,414 cars (11.2 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first eight weeks of 1990 totaled 2,650,562, up 1.0 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 115,951 trailers and/or containers for the week ended February 24, up 2.6 percent from the comparable week of 1989.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of 1990 was 917,979 trailers and/or containers, 4.2 percent above the comparable 1989 total.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended February 24 totaled 19.4 billion, 3.2 percent above the comparable week of 1989. Cumulative volume for the first eight weeks of 1990 was an estimated 153.7 billion ton-miles, up 1.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 1990

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 1990	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1989	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	31,501	29,355	7.3 %	32,480	-3.0 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,643	1,468	11.9	1,698	-3.2
Metallic Ores	15,603	12,109	28.9	15,376	1.5
Coal	129,751	124,466	4.2	130,429	-.5
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	11,564	11,008	5.1	12,488	-7.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,768	9,232	-5.0	9,569	-8.4
Grain Mill Products	10,203	9,720	5.0	10,734	-4.9
Food & Kindred Products	8,762	8,819	-.6	9,123	-4.0
Primary Forest Products	9,758	9,680	.8	10,245	-4.8
Lumber & Wood Products	6,971	7,168	-2.7	6,481	7.6
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,067	11,120	-.5	11,055	.1
Chemicals	27,484	26,923	2.1	28,958	-5.1
Petroleum Products	4,418	4,528	-2.4	4,777	-7.5
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,140	8,726	4.7	9,503	-3.8
Coke	5,215	5,470	-4.7	5,283	-1.3
Metals & Products	9,663	9,809	-1.5	9,642	.2
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	19,100	21,514	-11.2	17,633	8.3
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,277	8,937	-7.4	8,617	-3.9
All Other Carloads	6,262	6,538	-4.2	5,959	5.1
Total	335,150	326,590	2.6 %	340,050	-1.4 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 1990 1990	1989	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 8 WEEKS ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 1990 1990	1989	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	335,150	326,590	2.6 %	2,650,562	2,623,315	1.0 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	65,808	64,429	2.1	510,968	505,946	1.0
Containers	50,143	48,540	3.3	407,011	375,099	8.5
Total	115,951	112,969	2.6	917,979	881,045	4.2
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	19.4	18.8	3.2 %	153.7	151.5	1.5 %